

CHILDREN & FAMILIES COMMISSION OF FRESNO COUNTY

June 6, 2001 - 3:00 p.m.

***University of California Building
550 E. Shaw, Kern/Inyo Room
Fresno, CA***

Agenda Item No. 2

Recommendation

Approve Commission Minutes-May 2, 2001

Present: Executive Director Steve Gordon, Chair Bob Waterston, Vice Chair Luisa Medina, Commissioner Marion Karian, Commissioner Roseanne Lascano, Commissioner Kathleen McIntyre, Commissioner Gary Carozza

Absent: Commissioner Oscar Sablan, excused

A quorum was established and Commissioner Waterston called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m. and adjourned for Closed Session. Commissioner Waterston called the Regular Meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

1. Report of Closed Session

Commissioner Waterston stated that no action was taken during the closed session. It was the consensus of the Commission to schedule a meeting to be held at the Hall of Records prior to the next monthly Commission meeting in order to discuss personnel matters. The date and time of the meeting will be made public; however, it will be a closed session.

2. Approve Commission Minutes – April 4, 2001 and April 9, 2001

Commissioner Karian made a motion to approve the April 4, 2001 and April 9, 2001 minutes. Commissioner Lascano seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

3. Approve Financial Report ending March 2001

Henry Avery, Commission Accountant, presented the Final Status Report ending March 2001 and motioned for approval of said report. Commissioner Lascano requested to see revenues as well as the awards paid out to our grantees included in our report. Mr. Avery indicated that he will incorporate those items into the report. Commissioner Carozza made a motion to approve the Financial Report ending March 2001 with the requested changes from Commissioner Lascano. Commissioner Lascano seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

4. Director's Report

- Transportation – We met with City of Fresno, City of Clovis, transportation representatives from the rural areas, and private agencies to discuss services they are currently providing and what they can provide to suit our needs. With the help of a task force from the Fresno Metro Ministry, the next step is to meet with community people affected by transportation and develop a transportation plan. Jeff Webster asked to be included in the plan.
- Strategic plan – An ad hoc task force comprised of early childhood leaders will meet to review our plan late May. UCLA received a contract to assist counties to develop their strategic plans and we've asked them to facilitate our meeting. Any input from the Commissioners or the public is welcome.
- Service Providers (SP)– We sponsored a training meeting for our SPs with the Health Collaborative about the provision of tobacco education and prevention resources for our funded projects. Radio Bilingue also talked to the providers about how they'll be working with them on a range of activities from PR to drama skits and other assistance. SPs requested more of those meetings.
- Mini grant workshop –We've had an overwhelming response to the Mini Grant Program, with over 100 people attending the workshops. We'll have to address this program in future meetings.
- Senior Education – The Director taught a class about Prop 10 to seniors.
- Director's Association – The Commission Directors have formed their own association and received their 501(3)c status with a grant from the Packard Foundation.
- State Dept. Matching Funds – The timeline for the State application for matching grant funds for education has been pushed back and we'll know who's been funded in our county around June.
- Accounting - We're working on updating next year's budget and will present a draft at the next meeting. We will have our accounting software next week. The consulting CPA firm will train our Accountant on its use.
- The seven Valley Directors met and we'll be addressing health needs in the farm working population. We've hired a consulting firm to conduct focus groups in each one of the counties trying to assess needs of farm workers. This will lead to a grant for funds to address the identified needs. The funds for this one are from the State Commission.
- Evaluation RFP process – Ms. Mendoza noted that eight letters of intent were received and the review panel is scheduled to meet on May 22 to review proposals. They will interview firms and select the contractor on June 5, 2001.

Comments – Commissioner Carozza noted that there are numerous sources of data on farm workers and recommended that the seven Valley Directors compile those data. Commissioner Waterston mentioned that with Mary Dean leaving, we had a vacant spot on the Commission. There were many applicants and the Board of Supervisors selected Lee Ann Parry.

5. Discuss and approve funding recommendations for the Mini-Grant Program

A mini-grant RFP was released and we received 37 applications for the first round. Of these, 15 were returned as they did not meet criteria and 3 were resubmitted. We seek approval on 25 today which totals to approximately \$80,000. We tried to come up with an equitable way to fund all the applications and took into account the number of children served. After consulting with childhood professionals for a figure per child, a \$200 per child was determined a fair amount. Salaries or personnel issues were not funded as these are on-going funds. We

received an application from a kindergarten and we left it in the matrix but our program is not intended to help children already in school, rather we fund school-readiness programs. Commissioner Medina noted that some of those children in Addams Elementary School would need additional support to get them ready and funding would be appropriate. Counsel warned the Commission that the legislation was written to ensure that the money is going to be utilized only for the age group zero to five. The clarified that access will be limited to a classroom of pre-kindergarten students. There was much discussion about the age issue and access by children not aged 0 to 5. Conflict of Interest Disclosure from Commissioner Carozza on the Childhood Immunization Coalition grant. Save for that grant, Commissioner Carozza motioned that all grants be brought to vote as recommended. Commissioner Medina seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote. The Childhood Immunization Coalition grant will be brought to vote at next month's Commission meeting.

6. Discuss and approve the Commission's Letter of Intent for the State Commission's matching funds for the Retention Incentives For Early Care and Education Providers, Pilot Project

The State would match 25% of the county's allocation toward this pilot project. The State put out another round and in order to apply for it, we need to respond by the end of this month with a letter of intent. We are requesting 2 million toward matching funds; however, the amount on the letter of intent is not binding. The amount submitted cannot be raised but it can decrease in the proposal stage. We will ensure that there is no duplication of services. Kendra is part of the Education and Training Task Team of the Local Childhood Planning Council and they are in the process of putting together guidelines for the county plan along with the Fresno Association for the Education of Young Children. Commissioner Carozza moved to approve. Karian seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

7. Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Commissioner Waterston adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.